



## Regional Service Council Minutes Region 8

**Meeting Date:** August 25, 2006

**Meeting Location:** Vigo County DCS  
30 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Terre Haute, IN 47803

**Council Members Present:** Mike Baker, Vigo County DCS Supervisor; Chris Cohee, Regional Manager, Region 8; Pam Connelly, Clay/Sullivan County Director; Katie Edington, Parke/Vermillion County Director; Sarah Hannon, Sullivan County CASA; Diana Thomson, Clay County FCM.

**Council Members Absent:** Glenn Cardwell, Vigo County Director; Susan Marcum, Parke County Foster Parent; Hon. Robert Pell, Clay; Hon. P. J. Pierson, Sullivan; Hon. Paulette Stagg, Vigo; Hon. Bruce Stengel, Vermillion; Hon. Sam Swaim, Parke.

**Others in Attendance:** Nyala Bolen, Friends of Family; Nancy Edgerton, Hamilton Center; Judy Horstman, Hamilton Center; Kent Houchins, Hamilton Center; Penny Pitcock, Dodson & Shively; Rhonda Impink, ISU; Robyn Lugar, ISU; Tuovia Amerman, ISU; Peggy Weber, ISU; ISU interns: Katie Walker, Michelle Yocom, Luanne McGowan, Candace Williams, Nicole Woodard

Meeting Minutes
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**Meeting Called to Order at:** 9:00 A.M.

Chris Cohee welcomed attendees and led the introductions. Agenda items were discussed as follows.

1. Review Child Welfare Allocations, Protocols and Written Requirements

- Media – State Child Welfare Services Allocations, Protocol for 2007

Chris reviewed the protocols for 2007. He explained that the Child Welfare Service Allocations are a separate account from the Family and Children's Fund. These are state funds allocated to each county. They are to be used as a funding source for prevention services. The County Directors were polled as to how they use the dollars. Vigo County primarily uses funds for Systems of Care. Parke/Vermillion funds an after care for probation wards, Clay/Sullivan fund various programs to fill in the gaps in community services, such as a truancy program and a sex offender program. Penny Pitcock asked if this would remain funded in 2008. Chris thinks this will be the case.

Discussion was held as to the \$800,000 dollars available by submitting a proposal to DCS Central Office and the need to submit early for consideration of projects the Council deems beneficial to the Region. The importance of data to support your proposal is crucial for consideration. Pam suggested that regionalizing the SOAR program for sex offenders would be worthy of consideration and it would be an expansion of an existing successful program.

## 2. Development of Regional Plan (Consultant?)

Chris reported that there is \$1000 available to hire a consultant per region. The consultant would be used as a mechanism for assessment and information sharing of programs/services for overlap and need. Nyala said perhaps a consultant could advise as to what other counties are doing and if their programs could be implemented in Region 8. The council was polled and most felt that the council was charged with and could meet this need.

## 3. Review of Voluntary Services and Plans for Phase-Down

### ■ Media – Voluntary Services

This is a major shift for DCS. Voluntary service cases were for investigations that were not substantiated, but services could be offered and monitored. They are to be phased down and ended by July 2007 as per the media distributed. There was discussion as to how to address needs without voluntary service cases and the importance of a good decision by the FCM/Supervisor. It is important to communicate this change to the community. Nyala stated that services will be available through Community Partners the minute a child welfare case is closed. Chris said that while there is to be a contraction of voluntary service cases, there is to be an expansion of Community Partners. There needs to be a dialogue going between the providers before there is a handoff from voluntary service cases to Community Partners. Penny addressed concerns and questions as to the billing on IV-B and the correct language to use. Penny provided a copy of the newest updated form to download and said an improved version would follow in a few weeks.

## 4. Community Partners Update (Nyala)

Nyala reported that contracts are out, but service standards were altered in the process. Step one is to identify partners. This is in the start-up phase. Nyala is a project manager for this and has targeted the end of September for completion. She will be visiting each county to survey from County Directors and community leaders what is ongoing, what is needed and who is the targeted population. There is more money available than originally thought. Step two is to set-up a Governance Committee by the end of October. This committee is to establish a referral process, forms, initial assessment tools, brochure production and distribution. This committee will have regional representation and DCS must be involved. Region 8 will work on being consistent, but allow for county differences. Chris stated it is important to be equitable.

Nyala presented information on a web cast on 9-13-06 on child fatality, a calendar is being produced with training for each month and a program called Darkness to Light. Nyala is a trained facilitator for this nationally recognized program.

5. Review Updated Regional Service Council Protocol

- Media – Regional Service Council Protocol, Working Draft

Chris noted that page 6 had the most recent addition under the heading of Allocation of Funds for Service Delivery.

6. Review Local Budgets (Directors)

Chris stated that this is the budget for the Family and Children's Fund. Each Director gave a brief synopsis of their 2007 budgets and any problems that they foresaw. Vigo and Sullivan were having some challenges, but they were being managed.

7. IV-B Coordinator Update (Penny)

Penny restated that contracts had gone out. She made the following points:

- The counties are being billed first due to the additional time it has taken to execute the IV-B contracts. Because the first year of the contracts (2007) actually will cover 18 months, it is likely that most counties will begin to pay for services from county funds at some point within that time.
- IL meeting discussed emancipation goods and services. A list of what IL monies can be spent on will be in IL newsletter.
- Penny said to make sure that staff if getting copies of county sheets, if service titles are not correct, they will be returned. She reminded everyone to get their CD for the referral form.
- Waiver requests that providers submitted are still being reviewed.
- Penny is available to come out to meet providers and review forms with them after the new form is distributed.

8. "Making a World of Difference" Regional Service Council Newsletter

- Media – Making a World of Difference Regional Service Council Update

This is provided by Central Office with information about the regions.

9. Other Issues

- Peggy Weber, ISU School of Social Work, Presentation

ISU is part of the BSW/MSW program. The first cohort consisting of six interns is ready to be placed in the county offices. Representatives from ISU discussed the

program, the training they have received to-date and what are the general expectations for the interns. A point was made that they must have at least one hour a week of supervision by a person who has a MSW degree. Mike Baker and Glenn Cardwell have these qualifications. Arrangements are being made to meet these criteria and parties will be notified when this is completed. Peggy Weber is their field supervisor and will schedule a time to meet with each director and intern next week. The field manual is on CD and has all the important dates. Issues of computer access, the policy statements that are unique to these interns and fingerprinting requirements were discussed. Director Payne is committed to this program and is continuing to request monies to support the program.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: The next meeting will be held on September 29, 2006 at 9:00 A.M. in the second floor conference room.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

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